THE FLORA OF A DESERT RANGE, THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

A meeting of the Society was held November 12, 1931, at 8:00 p. m. in Room 2093, Life Sciences Building, University of California. In the absence of Dr. Peirce, the President, Prof. H. E. McMinn, the First Vice-President, occupied the chair. Thirty members and guests were present.

Mr. Victor Duran gave a very interesting lecture on the general aspect of the flora of the White Mountains of California and Nevada, where he has collected botanical specimens during several summers. This is one of the desert ranges of the Great Basin and is situated mostly in Inyo and Mono counties, California, extending partly into Mineral and Esmeralda counties, Nevada.

The lower slopes, especially at the edge of Owens Valley and Deep Springs Valley, at elevations of 4000 to 5500 feet, are, said Mr. Duran, dry and exposed and bear a variety of desert shrubs, many of which are characteristic of the Lower Sonoran Zone. Yucca brevifolia occurs on the eastern slopes near Deep Springs Valley, but appears to be quite uncommon. The sagebrush, Artemisia tridentata, is the dominant shrub of the region, occurring throughout the range below timber line, except on the most exposed lower slopes. The piñon, Pinus cembroides var. monophylla, and the juniper, Juniperus Californica var. Utahensis, form an open woodland throughout the range between 6000 and 8500 feet elevation. Above the piñon-juniper belt, one frequently meets pine forests composed of Pinus flexilis and Pinus aristata, but more often the Transition Zone is characterized by a scattered growth of the desert mahogany, Cercocarpus ledifolius, or nearly pure stands of Artemisia tridentata. Pinus flexilis and Pinus aristata occur nearly always in company, forming forests on the sheltered slopes and in the cañons. Sometimes appearing in the piñon belt these two pine species extend throughout the Boreal Zone to timber line, which occurs between 11,000 and 12,000 feet elevation. On account of the rolling nature of much of the higher country there is a fairly extensive arctic vegetation. Trifolium monense, a species known only from this range, is one of the characteristic plants, and a valuable sheep feed.

Several large meadows occur in the higher parts of the range and the aspen, Populus tremuloides, is plentiful in suitable parts of the Transition and Canadian zones. Populus trichocarpa, Betula fontinalis, and several species of willow are found along the lower courses of the stream.—E. K. C.

WEED CONTROL IN CALIFORNIA

The Society met on Thursday, January 21, 1932, in Room 2093, Life Sciences Building, University Campus, Berkeley. Dr. Geo. J. Peirce, the President, presided. About thirty-five members were present. The address of the evening, Weed Control in California, was given by Dr. W. W. Robbins, Professor of Botany at the University College of Agriculture at Davis.

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